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NO PIER REVIEW

City records: Greenpoint ferry landing was never inspected — before or after collapse

EXCLUSIVE

By Danielle Furfaro The Brooklyn Paper

The city and the company that runs a ferry out of Greenpoint never inspected the soundness of the dock, even after it partially collapsed into the East River last winter, documents obtained by The Brooklyn Paper show.

A lone report provided in response to a public records request seeking inspections performed between 2010, when the India Street pier was being prepared for use by the East River Ferry, and October, 2014 shows that the only time an engineer looked at the dock was to monitor the replacement of the ferry landing float in July of last year. The float broke its moorings during a snowstorm in February, 2014, plunging the connecting gangway into the icy water moments after commuters crossed it.

The revelation comes as the city is planning a major citywide ferry expansion and Brooklyn pols are demanding that pier owner Red Sky Capital reveal what led to the India Street collapse, saying it has declined them and the city's Economic Development Corporation, which manages publicly subsidized private ferries

We are concerned that no public incident study has materialized a year later despite EDC's repeated requests," reads a letter to the company signed by State Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Greenpoint), Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint), Councilman Steve Levin (D-Greenpoint), Congresswoman Carolyn



The gangplank that attaches the India Street pier to the ferry landing collapsed into the water on Feb. 13, 2014.

Maloney (D-Greenpoint), and Borough President Adams.

Ferry operator Billybey, which does not own the pier but is responsible for maintaining it, admitted shortly after the collapse that it never inspected the dock below the waterline, saying that its inspections consisted of an employee eyeballing it from above once a week.

It said that a preliminary investigation found that the two supports holding up the floating platform closest to the boat fell, causing the landing to float away from shore. The runaway float pulled the gangway, which was attached to the pier at the other end, breaking apart the ramp and sending it into the murky depths of

It is not clear why the supposed investigation was not included in the city's response to this paper's Freedom of Information Law request. Both Billybey and the Economic Development Corporation refused to turn over copies of inspection records in the year since. The city agency relies on the taxpayer-subsidized private ferry operators to self-report safety inspections and appears not to have any protocol for them to do so. Reps for the agency have declined to outline such a protocol.

The U.S. Coast Guard performs yearly inspections of maritime facilities, but only assesses security issues and the facility's ability to mitigate a hazardous materials

See **FERRY** on page 6



Commuter Stephanie Vevers of Greenpoint is a regular on the East River Ferry. She said the city and pier owner Red Sky Capital took too long to repair the dock after the landing came unmoored in early 2014. The collapse hasn't scared her into riding the G train, though.

Williamsburg and Greepoint activists from left, Jimmy Pav, Luke Beardon, Steve Chesler, Katie Naplatarski, Luke Piercifield, Jens Rasmussen, Dewey Thompson, and Maggie Baker

Spotlight to shame city

Activists light up building to protest a broken park promise

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

A group of Williamsburg and city to make good on its promise to buy a handful of waterfront lots and complete Bushwick Inlet Park made their demands larger than life last weekend.

The rabble-rousers joined with artist Mark Read, who first used his Illuminator projector system to shine messages on buildings during Occupy Wall Street protests.



of illuminated slogans called for 11th streets, one of the lots the the city to complete the waterfront park it promised as part of the 2005 rezoning that allowed luxury residential towers to rise along the Greenpoint and Williamsburg shoreline.

The catchphrases included: "The city reneges on promises and lies to residents;" "This right here is supposed to be a park;" and "DeBlasio to North Brooklyn: Park you!"

The recent fire that gutted the CitiStorage facility on Kent city never got around to buying, brought renewed attention to the broken pledge. The protesters cycled through

projections on the side of a still-

standing CitiStorage building for about two hours. "It was a perfect way of bringing the story of this issue right to the site," said Greenpoint resident

and activist Dewey Thompson. The park lovers planned a rally outside City Hall on Thursday at 1 pm, after press time for this pa-

Hangout hazard

Daycare, senior centers in peril as city dawdles in lease talks

By Matthew Perlman The Brooklyn Paper

A Fort Greene community center could soon be without a

The 43-year-old Fort Greene Council, which runs youth and senior programs, as well as a jazz club out of its Fulton Street digs, is in danger of losing the building because the city is dragging its heels over a lease renewal. At a community forum in the building last week, the group's chairman said time is running out.

'We're in a crisis situation," said Sam Pinn, who helped found the Council. "This is a neighborhood institution serving seniors and children from two to 13 years

old, and providing cultural entertainment. We're now at a point where all this is in jeopardy.

The Fort Greene Council receives funding from several city agencies, including the Department for the Aging, the Administration for Children's Services, and the Department of Youth and Community Development. The city holds the lease for the four-story property at 966–972 Fulton St., between Cambridge Place and Grand Avenue, which has been owned by PV Associates since 1975. The landlord currently gets around \$530,000 per year for the property, according to the Department of Citywide Ad-

ministrative Services. That is less than half of the mar-







(Left to right) Millicente Thompson, Enid Sampson, and Jeroam Cumberbatch play a card game in the Fort Greene Council's Grace A. Harewood Senior Center. Francine Deloatch reads to her students at the Fort Greene Council daycare center. Wynton Marsalis blows his horn for an adoring crowd at Jazz 966 last year. All three activities are in danger as the city drags its heels in lease talks with the landlord of the building that contains it all.

ket rate for similar properties in the area, according Chris Havens, a commercial broker for aptsandlofts.com. But, more importantly, he said the city simply would not be able to find another space for the programs to move into.

"It's not a question of a specific number," Havens said. "It's more about finding space. There's just not anything like that anywhere

around there."

The city will not say how much of an increase the landlord is seeking, but Pinn called it "moderate," and the landlord says he wants to keep the Council in its space.

'We have a wonderful relationship with the Fort Greene Council, and [have] for quite a long time. We'd like nothing more than to extend their lease," Jim Argento said.

If he means it, the city should do what it can to keep the facility where it is, Havens said.

"Any tenant that can make that deal should make that deal," he said. "Brooklyn just doesn't have that much commercial space."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, which handles city leas-

ing, said negotiations are ongoing, but that officials are not yet close to reaching a deal.

"DCAS and the landlord have exchanged several proposals, but are still far apart on agreeing on a rent per square foot," said Cathy Hanson, spokeswoman for the department.

About 80 seniors use the Grace A. Harewood Senior Center each day, and 120 students attend the Young Minds Day Care Center, according to management. But more than low-impact aerobics and finger-painting classes are at stake. On Fridays, a room in the senior center is transformed into Jazz 966, a swinging nightclub that has served as a stopover for jazz greats since 1990. Wynton Marsalis, Dakota

See **CENTER** on page 11

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Staten Island's verdict

This grand jury charges Slope pol's aide with fraud

By Noah Hurowitz The Brooklyn Paper

A Staten Island grand jury's indictment of a Park Slope councilman's aide for alleged campaign finance fraud shows a double standard that further calls into question the handling of the Eric Garner case, a goodgovernment group charges.

Rachel Goodman, chief of staff for Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), pleaded not guilty to the charges on Wednesday in

Staten Island. She is accused of submitting false statements to the city Campaign Finance Board and periury stemming from work she did for the campaign of Councilwoman Deborah Rose (D-Staten Island). The indictment, which comes after two years of investigation by Roger Adler, a district-attorney-appointed special prosecutor, is a troubling bypass of the city's Campaign Finance Board, according to

Citizens Union, a good-gov-

ernment group.
The organization's head pointed out that Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan took no such steps in the case of the high-profile police killing of Garner, a Gowanus

"It's odd that Dan Donovan didn't hire or retain a special prosecutor for the Eric Garner case but felt the need to retain one for alleged campaign finance violations that are normally handled by the Campaign Finance Board," Citizens Union director Dick Dadev said. "The difference of scale between the two and the different responses is kind of mind-boggling."

The national government watchdog group Common Cause echoed the sentiment.

"The New York City Campaign Finance Board has shown itself to be a fierce and capable watchdog of the city's muchadmired campaign finance system," the group's New York director Susan Lerner said in a statement released on Feb. 26, two days after the indictment came down.

Goodman is charged along with two others who prosecutors say lied to the finance board in filings about donations to Rose's campaign. Specifically, she is accused of undervaluing work she did on behalf of the Rose campaign.

Goodman's name was redacted from the original indictment, but the charges came to light in a March 5 New York Times column questioning the

Lander dismissed the charges as baseless and called the prosecution "bullying."

"I stand by Rachel Goodman 100 percent," Lander said in a statement. "She is a dedicated, ethical, smart, hardworking public servant, who should not be subjected to this prosecutorial bullying."

In 2009 Goodman worked for Data and Field Services, a now-defunct affiliate of the union-backed Working Families Party set up to help campaigns. At the heart of the indictment are allegations that Data and Field Services provided discount services to the Rose campaign but failed to list the discount as a campaign contribution, as required by the state's regulations Data and Field Services

worked on nine campaigns that election, and Goodman worked on five of those, including those of Rose, Lander, and Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-East Flatbush), according to Lander. With the exception of the Rose campaign, the Campaign Finance Board has audited all of those campaigns and cleared them of any criminal violations. It did find Williams's campaign failed to report various contributions, including a failure to document in-kind contributions, and fined him a total of \$5,994 for it, which is how such paperwork omissions are typically dealt with. The failure to document in-kind contributions carried no fine.



Councilman Brad Lander's chief of staff Rachel Goodman, center, is facing criminal charges.

The Campaign Finance Board paused its audit of the Rose campaign in 2012, when Staten Island District Attornev and current Republican congressional candidate Dan Donovan recused himself and a judge appointed Adler. The special prosecutor knows a thing or two about campaign finance law, having represented former Brooklyn Democratic boss Clarence Norman when he faced charges of extortion, soliciting illegal campaign contributions, and stealing from his reelection committee. Norman was convicted in 2007 and served less than two years of a three-to-nine-year sentence.

Lander blasted the appointment of Adler and blamed Donovan for it, saying it circumvented the normal process and handed the case to a Democratic-machine operative with an agenda against the insurgent Working Families Party.

"I remain disappointed that Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan sought a special prosecutor to begin with," Lander said in a statement "Instead, the special prosecutor who was appointed has trumped up a wild and unsupported conspiracy theory, for his own purposes. Roger Adler has the right to hold a grudge against the Working Families Party. But it is shameful for him to indict innocent individuals.'

Activists and commentators called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to handle the investigation of the death of Eric Garner, who objected to being stopped by officers, supposedly on suspicion of selling loose cigarettes. Donovan and Gov. Cuomo did not heed the demand, and a grand jury's failure to indict Officer Daniel Pantaleo, the cop who choked Garner to the ground, sparked months of protests.

A spokesman for Donovan declined to comment on Adler's appointment.

Goodman declined to comment through Lander.

Too hot to panel Group pulls out of park watchdog body

By Matthew Periman The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights' community board is pulling a Switzerland and backing out of the battle for Brook lyn Bridge Park.

Community Board 2 chairwoman Shirley McRae withdrew the board's representative from the private park's Community Advisory Council last week, saying the watchdog advisory panel is too critical of park management.

'The discourse at and resultant actions of the CAC often appear to be adversarial to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation," she wrote in a letter to park president Regina Myer. "When the two entities are continually of such disparate perspective and opinion, it creates a dysfunctional dynamic that I no longer want the community board to be a party to."

The Community Advisory Council, which makes recommendations about the park's development and ad-



Community Board 2 is pulling Andrew Lastowecky (left) from the Community Advisory Council for Brooklyn Bridge Park. Lucy Koteen (right), cochairwoman of the Brooklyn Bridge Park watchdog group, says it "can't get no respect."

ministration to the board of directors, has broken sharply with management on a number of issues in recent months. It called for a new environmental study to be performed before work begins on two buildings on Pier 6; a detailed accounting of the park's finances to justify the need for those buildings — the last of

seven structures meant to finance park maintenance and halting construction on the contentious Pierhouse development near the Brooklyn Heights Promenade.

None of the requests were voted on at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation's meeting last week, because chairwoman Alicia Glen opted not to put them on the agenda. The board has previously voted on recommendations to review and revise the general park plan, but didn't this time

An advisory council honcho said her group, which consists of representatives from community groups and other locals who care, is only confrontational because the people running the park don't lis-

"McRae seems to be blaming the CAC for not being cooperative with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, said Lucy Koteen, co-chairwoman of the council. "The function of the council is advisory, but they never take our advice. So, it is contentious,

no doubt about it." The administrator of the community board, which advises the city on issues affect-

ing Downtown, Fort Greene,

and Brooklyn Heights, said that is just not his group's 'That's not how we do business," district manager Robert Perris said. "And we don't want to be part of an organi-

zation that does." He emphasized that the community board is not pulling its representative, Andrew Lastowecky, because of disagreements over particular is-

sues, but rather because of the council's attitude. "It's the tone of the dis-

course," he said. Sandy Balboza, a member of the advisory council, pointed out that McRae has never attended one of its meetings, and said the issues the council raises come from members of the local com-

"We present all of the issues, we discuss them, and we vote on them," Balboza said. "This is a very controversial park and a controversial park plan."

The recent conflicts with the park administration are a result of growing anger over many aspects of how the green-space-centered development scheme is being handled.

'Things are changing on the CAC because everyone's mad about something," she

Koteen is puzzled by the community board's decision, and is growing frustrated with the structure put in place by the park's administration for its own governance, since the advisory council, at the end of the day, has no real say.

"If we're there to advise, and no one's listening, what's the point?" she said. "We can't get no respect."



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Prospect Lefferts groceries

Another food co-op for a park-side neighborhood

By David Russell

for The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Lefferts Gardens' answer to the Park Slope Food Co-Op is up and running.

The Lefferts Community Food Co-operative started up late last year at 324 Empire Blvd. and is currently open to members two days a week. The store is the culmination of five years of planning by locals, many of whom had memberships at the famous granola grocer across Prospect Park, and who wanted a similarly affordable option closer to home.

"People like to shop locally," said Karen Oh, an organizer and former Slope cooperator. "Not in a trendy way. They just like to put money and resources into their own neighborhood."

The store has 200 members so far and is looking to expand, she said.

The core group of organizers moved to open the shop without more buy-in under the belief that if they built it, the members would come.

"The thinking was, 'People move, they may not want to invest and wait. We have to open the store." Oh said. "People don't have the income and patience to join an idea."

The founders appear to have been right, as about half of the current members



Lefferts Community Food Co-operative members, from left, Trevoro Stokos, Rebecca Renaud, and Joanna Ingalls enjoy the fruits of their labor.

joined after the store got up and running, she said.

Owners of neighborhood supermarkets need not worry about the upstart stealing their business, according to Oh.

"We have a lot of organic products. It's not going to be for everyone. We don't offer everything," she said.

The co-op is currently open to members on Thursdays from 4 pm to 8:30 pm and on Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm. To join, members pay a \$25 fee and a refundable \$25—\$100 investment sum, and pledge to

work atwo-hours-and-45-minutes shift every month. The model is based on the memberworker approach of the Park Slope co-op, and the two operations are cooperating to the point that members of the

work requirements.

The head of the Brooklyn
Chamber of Commerce hailed
the Lefferts store.

Slope store can count shifts at

the Lefferts store towards their

"The Brooklyn Chamber is happy when any new business opens in the borough, particularly one that will increase residents' access to fresh and healthy produce," Chamber head Carlo Scissura wrote in an e-mail.

The opening comes as Windsor Terrace's nascent food cooperative, also modeled after the Slope store, is holding its first meetings and working to build out a storefront on Caton Avenue, just over the Kensington border. That shop is set to open on March 21.

For more information visit www.leffertsfoodcoop. org and www.windsorter-racefoodcoop.com.

Own a piece of Etsy

Online craft market hitting stock exchange

By Matthew Perlman The Brooklyn Paper

Etsy is going public.
The online marketplace where craftspeople can hawk crocheted stockings with deer on them is getting ready to sell some plain old stocks, according to papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Etsy, which Rob Kalin founded in his Fort Greene apartment in 2005, is looking to raise \$100 million with its initial pub-



Etsy head Chad Dicker-

lic offering, the documents

Now headquartered in Dumbo, the company is set to move into larger digs in 2016, inside the Jared Kushner-owned Dumbo Heights complex. And with the help of a \$5-million tax-break, it plans to bring on an additional 300 workers, which would nearly double its Brooklyn workforce. This paper named Etsy one of the 15 to Watch in 2015, in part because of the

possibility of an initial public offering.

The company makes money by charging its sellers a fee for every sale. It generated \$196 million in revenue last year, up from \$125 million the year before. But, it still failed to turn a profit, losing \$15 million last year. Etsy's 1.4-million sellers fared far better, generating \$1.93 billion in 2014 with sales to 19.8-million sellers fared far better.

lion customers.

The ticker symbol, which will be listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange, will be "ETSY." It is not yet clear how many stocks the company will issue or how much they will cost.

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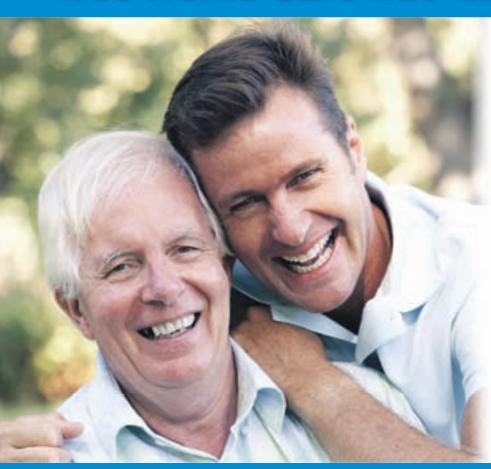
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and electronics from an apart-

ment on First Place on March

ing between Court and Smith

streets at 8 am and returned

at 4:20 pm to find her pad

ransacked, though there was

no trace of forced entry, of-

tennis bracelet worth \$4,500,

a gold watch worth \$500, a

diamond ring worth \$200, a

silver iPad worth \$600, and

\$150 in cash, according to law

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

A goon stole a straphang-

The victim left her iPhone

er's phone after she fell asleep

on a 95th Street-bound R train

6 on her lap as she conked

out between 7:30 pm and 8

pm, and when she awoke, the

cellphone was gone, accord-

A burglar stole \$400 from a

The prowler climbed a rear

65th Street business on March

fence and pried open a secu-

rity gate to the building be-

tween Ninth and 10th avenues

in Borough Park between 1

pm and 2 pm, according to a

report. The thief left a tool be-

A cat burglar climbed

through a kitchen window

and took cash and jewelry

from a 99th Street home on

March 4, according to the au-

house between Ridge Boule-

vard and Fourth Avenue in

Bay Ridge sometime between

12:20 pm and 1:50 pm, re-

moving \$2,000 in cash and

an estimated \$5,000 in jew-

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick

A pair of robbers jumped

The victim said that he was

in back of a building between

Ten Eyck and Stagg streets at

4 am when the two galoots

asked him for directions to

rections, but one of the jokers

choked him and his accomplice went into the mark's pockets

and stole his phone and wallet, according to a police re-

port. Then both scoundrels

A goon attacked a guy in-

The victim said that he was

side of a Metropolitan Avenue

diner on March 7, according

at the eatery near Union Av-

enue at 4:50 am when one of

the punk patrons hit him over

the head with a glass cup out of nowhere, cutting his head.

rushed out of the place, and

emergency responders took the victim to Wyckoff Heights

Drive-by slash

The attacker and his crew

A crew of cretins jumped

The victim said that he was

out of a car on Keap Street on

March 8 and attacked a man.

cutting him and stealing his

at S. Second Street at 6:15 am

when the mob of miscreants jumped out of the gray Nis-

san Ultima, put the victim in a chokehold, and rummaged

The gang grabbed \$220

from him, then one pulled a

knife, slashed him across the

stomach, and drove off, ac-

cording to a report. The victim checked himself into Mount

Sinai Beth Israel later in the

Shot in the dark

Manhattan Avenue building

on March 7, law enforcement

was in front of a building be-

tween Moore and Varet streets

at 11:21 pm when he caught a slug in his foot. He refused to

tell police who shot him, a re-

The victim said that he

Someone shot a young man in the foot outside of a

to the authorities.

a report says.

Medical Center.

money, cops said.

through his pockets.

day, per police.

officials said.

scrammed, the report says.

Fries with that?

The victim started give di-

a guy on Lorimer Street on

March 7 as he was on his way

home from a bar, cops said

- Max Jaeger

elry, officials said.

G men

the G train.

The intruder crept into the

hind, the report states.

Window pain

thorities.

Thief's dream

on Feb. 28, cops said.

ing to the NYPD.

police said.

Fence hopper

– Noah Hurowitz

enforcement officials.

The sneak made off with a

ficers said.

The victim left her build-

5. the authorities said.

Bad Samaritan offers crash help, robs man

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

A menacing mechanic robbed a man who he offered to help after a crash on S. Oxford Street on March 5, cops said.

The victim said he smashed up his ride between Atlantic Avenue and Hanson Place at 10:55 pm. After the accident, the fiend approached and asked if he needed an autobody shop to repair his car, according to a report.

The not-so-good Samaritan slipped into the passenger seat while talking to the victim, then pulled out a black gun, officers said. The goon demanded the man's valuables. grabbed his wallet, Burberry scarf, and headphones, then walked off towards Fulton Street, cops said.

Gamergate

A burglar busted into a Waverly Avenue apartment on March 6, and stole a videogame system and a laptop, according to the authorities.

The victim said he left the building between Myrtle and Park avenues at 9 am, and did not return until 9 pm. When he arrived, he noticed his front door damaged and his electronics were missing, law enforcement officials said.

Lotto looting

Some no-goodniks stole a bunch of lottery tickets from

a Flatbush Avenue pharmacy on March 7, police said.

Officers responded to a call about the store between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street at 5:30 am, and when they arrived the glass front door was smashed, the security gate had been pried open, and lottery tickets were scattered across the floor, according to officers.

The owner arrived and told cops that 10 books of scratchoffs were taken, worth a total of \$5,000.

Inside job

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole \$20,000 from a Kent Avenue armored car service sometime between Oct. 23 and Nov. 17, according to a police report.

Employees of the company between Keap and Hooper streets said the suspect stole the cash sometime between 5 pm on Oct. 23 and 9 am on Nov. 17, while he was working for them.

They reported the theft March 3, and police arrested the accused the same day.

Cereal stealer

Someone stole \$2,500 that a woman had stashed in a cereal box inside of a refrigerator in her room at a Carlton Avenue homeless shelter, on March 3 or 4, NYPD officials said

The victim said she last saw the cash in the shelter between Park and Myrtle avenues at 2 pm on March 3. She went to retrieve some money to go shopping at 1:30 pm the next day, and it was gone, a report says.

She said some of her friends at the shelter knew she had the money, and that they could come and go from her room as they pleased, per cops.

Grand thefts

Drivers had a hard time holding onto their cars in the precinct this week. Three were reported stolen, according to police. Here's the run-

• Someone took a Ford Explorer from Vanderbilt Avenue on March 3, the authorities said.

The owner said she went to

pick up her sports utility vehicle from its parking space between Greene and Gates avenues at 8:15 am, but it was already gone.

• The next day a thief made off with a Plymouth Voyager that the owner had left on Clifton Place, officers said.

The victim said he parked his mini-van between Grand and Classon avenues at 2 am, and when he went to get it at 9:30 am, it was gone.

· A menace also drove off with a Mercury Mariner from Waverly Avenue on March 8. according to officials.

The owner said she left it between Greene and Gates av-

Find more online every Wednesday at **BrooklynPaper.com/blotter** enues at 12:15 pm, and went to

POLICE BLOTTER 🥏

get it an hour later, but it was gone. She also reported the car had been taken from her on Nov. 29, and that officers recovered it in Crown Heights on Jan. 15, but that the ignition

key was never found.

84TH PRECINCT Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown

Bag man

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole two bags from an Atlantic Avenue gym on Feb. 20 and 24, while the owners played basketball.

• The first victim said he left his backpack next to the court in the gym between Court Street and Boerum Place at 2:30 pm on Feb.

He noticed the bag gone five hours later, cops said. The bag contained \$20 in cash, a pair of Jordans, a leather jacket, a cellphone, and other items, according to police.

 The second victim said he was playing ball on Feb. 24 from 3:08 until 3:26 pm. At the end of his game, he no-

ticed the bag, which contained \$16 in cash, a debit card, an electronic music player, a cellphone, and other items, had been taken, officers said.

In both case, security footage supposedly shows the suspect take the bag into the bathroom, remove the goods, and leave, according to a police report. Cops picked up the accused on Feb. 24, the report says.

Chopper down

Someone swiped a motorcycle from Dean Street sometime between Feb. 17 and Feb. 22, according to police.

The victim said he left his blue 2015 Bavarian Motor Works between Court Street and Boerum Place at 7 am on Feb. 17. When he returned four days later at 10 am, it was gone, cops said.

Uninvited

A bandit burgled a Schermerhorn Street apartment on Feb. 24 while the victim was out running errands, police said.

The victim said she left the building between Court Street and Boerum Place at 11 am, and did not return until 6:30 ticed her laptop and a bunch of jewelry was gone from the apartment, according to the authorities

The rings, necklaces, watch, and bracelets are worth \$27,850, the victim said.

D-feat

A sneak stole a woman's wallet onboard a D train on Feb. 24, a report says.

The victim said she boarded

the Brooklyn-bound train at Grand Street on the distant island of Manhattan at 5:40 pm, and that a ne'er-do-well followed her on. The fiend was standing close behind her when she felt a sharp tug on her purse, and when the train stopped at the Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center station, he disembarked, and she subsequently noticed her wallet gone, according to the NYPD.

Stair-master

Another pickpocket struck at the Atlantic Avenue-Barclavs Center station on Feb. 25, removing a victim's cellphone from her backpack as she ascended the stairs, officers said.

The victim said she got off of a Coney-Island-bound D train at 5:40 pm and headed up the stairs. A witness told her that the crook unzipped her bag and removed the phone, and pointed out the thief, cops said.

The victim confronted the scoundrel and she denied any wrongdoing, saying, "I didn't take anything," then scrammed, according to a police report.

In foot traffic

Police arrested a teen who they say bit an officer and resisted arrest on Feb. 27, after he and three friends blocked a staircase leading out of the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station.

A cop reported that the teens were preventing people from moving up the stairs of the station at 5:32 pm. When officers approached the group, the suspect supposedly became agitated and refused to budge and bit one on both hands, according to a report.

Gang mean

A group of goons punched a teen in the face on Smith Street and tried to steal his phone on Feb. 27, cops said.

The victim said he was between Dean and Bergen streets at 3:50 pm when the quarrelsome quintet came up and demanded his phone. When he refused, one of the toughs punched him in the face, fracturing his nose, according to a police report.

The fiends took off running without the phone, and emergency medical workers took the teen to New York Methodist Hospital, the report says.

Cutout

A careful crook cut a man's pockets and removed his phone and wallet while he slept on an N train on March 1, cops said.

The victim said he was sleeping on the Coney-Island-bound train and woke up at 5:30 am at the Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center station to find his pockets cut. The rapscallion made off with a cellphone and a wallet, which contained \$1,000 in cash, debit, and credit cards, according to officers.

Phone-y biz

A pair of crooks stole four cellphones from a Montague Street store on Feb. 25, according to law enforcement officials.

An employee said the deceptive duo came into the store between Henry and Clinton streets at 7:57 pm, grabbed two phones each, and fled. The worker did not see the incident happen, but video footage shows the quickmoving thieves at work, a report says.

— Matthew Perlman

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Rubber room

Cops arrested a Queens man and a Long Island man on March 3 who they say swiped condoms and toiletries from the same pharmacy on Court Street in two sepa-

rate incidents. Security at the store between First and Second places detained the Queens suspect at about 1 pm after they said he stuffed 21 boxes of Trojan condoms, worth \$417.59, into nis hag. When cons cuffed him, they found a pipe containing crack-cocaine residue, according to a report.

Security detained the Long Island man at 9:25 pm on the same day after they say he tried to walk out of the store with \$58 worth of body wash and razors.

Knife play

Two toughs stuck a man up on March 3 on Bond Street,

according to a report. The victim was at Baltic Street in Boerum Hill at 10:10 pm when the treacherous twosome approached, and as one brandished a knife the other punched the guy in the face, cutting his lip, cops said.

The brutes snatched \$20 worth of food and a black iPhone 4, then took off on foot in the direction of Hoyt Street, according to officers.

Blackout

A man reported an assault several weeks after he said an unidentified attacker knocked him out cold outside of a bar on Court Street.

The victim reported walking out of the bar between Congress and Warren streets at about 4 am on Feb. 26 and having a ruffian clock him in the face, fracturing his jaw and causing a fall that resulted in a fractured rib and a concussion, cops said.

The victim went to a hospital for his injuries two days later but did not report the assault until March 3, according to a report.

A burglar swiped jewelry

In and out

Fast food

port says.

A pair of punks robbed a de-livery driver at knifepoint on Havemeyer Street on March 2, officers said. A victim said that he was

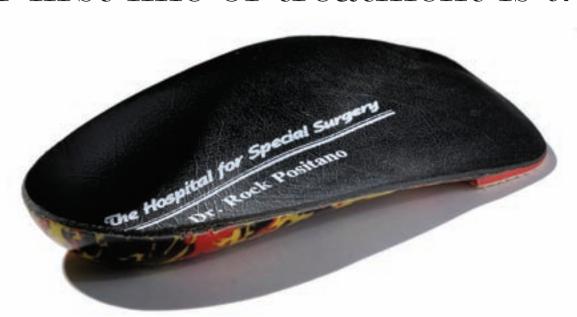
near Hope Street at 12:40 am when the treacherous two some cornered him.

— Danielle Furfaro

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PACKED IN AT PS 8

Heights school so crowded that city killed pre-K

By Matthew Perlman The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights elementary school is feeling the squeeze of area development, and it is only going to get more packed, parents sav.

PS 8, on Hicks Street between Poplar and Middagh streets is over-capacity, has had to cut its prekindergarten program, and is in danger of losing its art and music rooms next year. The school's parentteacher association is raising the alarm over the need for more classrooms as new residential developments bring in even more students.

"The problem is bad, and it's getting worse," said Ansley Samson, co-president of the PS 8 Parents and Teachers Association.

The school has 28 classrooms and 703 students this year, which is 254 more students than the School Construction Authority recommends, according to a report that agency issued last year.

The parent-teacher group said that the number of classes in each grade has been steadily increasing each year, with three fifthgrade classes set to graduate, and six kindergarten classes ready to move on to first grade. And with 30 more kindergartners already preregistered for next year than this year, the schoolhouse is set to get further stuffed to the gills.

In the past, classes have been folded together, but if the school needs space for as many students as the current pre-registration suggests while accounting for the smaller graduating class, that alone will not be enough to accommodate all the kids.

"I don't see a world where we don't lose our music room next year," Samson said.

This would not be the first time that happened. The school was without a music room last year, but got it back after the city canceled the two prekindergarten classes that were housed in the school,





opening up more space.

The school's other parentteacher president, Kim Glickman, wonders how canceling prekindergarten classes washes with Mayor DeBlasio's plan to get every kid in the city enrolled in such a program.

"It seems a little ironic given Mayor DeBlasio's push for universal pre-K," she said.

Parents say that there is little to be done for next school year. Instead, they are looking to the following year, and the issue last week. But the

To Comfort Always ...

asking the Department of Education for a long-term solution.

"As parents all we can do is raise the issue," Glickman said.

The city increased capacity at PS 8 in 2011 with an annex that added seven classrooms, but those have all been filled. Samson and Glickman acknowledge that overcrowding is a citywide issue and is not limited to PS 8. They submitted testimony at a Council hearing about

Ansley Samson and Kim Glickman (left), co-presidents of PS 8's parentteacher association, are concerned that the city is not moving fast enough to help alleviate overcrowding at their school. There are already 254 more students at Brooklyn Heights' PS 8 than the education department recommends.

construction of new housing in Dumbo, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Brooklyn Heights will hasten the situation in their neighborhood.

"It's a big problem, and a problem across the city," Samson said. "But a part of the issue in our district is how fast the problem is growing.

The Department of Education has plans for 1,090 new school seats in PS 8's district over the next five years, which could be either elementary or middle-school seats.

The city also estimates that by 2021, 7,547 new apartments will have been built in the district since PS 8's annex was added. Using the city's own formula, that would require around twice as many seats as it has in the

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Filling the breach

Techies to Brooklyn: Put up this firewall

By Matthew Periman The Brooklyn Paper

They've got the keys to making your phone or computer an encryption castle.
The Open Web Applica-

tion Security Project, an international organization that works to improve software security, launched a Brooklyn chapter late last year. One of the local organizers said it is important to have a Kings County group, since so many independent software companies have offices here.

"The smaller companies may not be so security conscious," said Israel Bryski, whose day job is on the technology security team of an investment bank. "Or they don't have the funding and expertise needed to make their software secure.'

The cyber security group tries to make secure software

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Eye on technology and innovation in Brooklyn

accessible so that even tiny startups incorporate policies and practices that insure their data remains safe. It hosts conferences, lectures, and training sessions to raise awareness and help solve problems through experienced volunteers. The group provides information on

ever-evolving security practices and vulnerabilities that can be difficult for developers to stay on top of on their own, said Bev Corwin, another organizer. 'It takes a lot of work to

keep up with it," she said.

Bryski said that as more software is designed to be accessed over the internet, developers could be inadvertently creating entry points that allow hackers to steal information.

"If they're not built properly, it's easy to reach right through the software and get to the data on the back end,"

he said. The risks are enormous, Corwin said.

"It's beyond comprehension. It's a huge problem," she said. "OWASP is at the front lines of that."

She added that many universities do a poor job of teaching graduates about how to make safe software, saying her group aims to fill the void between reality and academia.

'It's sad and it's shocking, but it's true," she said. "This is a bridge between industry and education."

Volunteers and guest speakers for the group generally fall into three categories: builders, defenders, and breakers. Builders design the basic software, defenders implement security measures, and breakers uncover vulnerabilities by trying to hack into the system. There is a lot of overlap, said Bryski, who considers himself a defender

"We try to think like a bad guy, and figure out how they would break in," he said. "Then we block the holes we find."

FERRY...

spill, said Charles Rowe, the

military branch's public af-

fairs officer. The Coast Guard

also performs snap inspec-

tions at random and investi-

gates incidents involving ships

or security breaches, he said.



Israel Bryski, an organizer of the new Brooklyn chapter for the Open Web Application Security Project, wants to help people make software that

The international group and the Navy Yard. All of the has 42,000 participants and local universities participated, along with a bunch of area has been around for 14 years, companies. If you missed out according to its website. The size of the New York City on the in-real-life festivities, chapter, which has more than some of the panel discussions 1,800 members, led organizare being posted to Vimeo. ers to start founding offshoot Check out the keynote, a talk chapters including the new about companies that use new tools to improve on old-school Brooklyn one. After only industries, featuring speakthree meetings the group has ers from New Lab, Gilt, The signed up 155 members. One Awl, and Amplify. of the chapter leaders speculates that the interest has a In case you missed it, the lot to do with the borough's

collaborative spirit. developers behind the revitalization of Sunset Park's "The culture itself helps Industry City announced a lot," said Donald Gooden. 'There's a willingness to a \$1 billion overhaul of the come together, and to put 16-building waterfront facility. They are hoping to turn the manufacturing hub

Techno Files

in the time."

The second annual Brooklyn Tech Triangle U took place this week, highlighting the tech ecosystem connecting Downtown, Dumbo,

A Freedom of Information

Act request for records of

an inspection following the

gangway incident found that

the Coast Guard did not per-

Rowe did add that if one

of his agency's inspectors

encountered an obviously

unsafe condition at one of

the facilities, they were in-

form an investigation.

design, engineering, manufacturing, and retail space. But the whole deal hinges on a decidedly low-tech problem: parking.

specting they would notify

into a tech center including

the facility's operator. The Department of Transportation manages the free, public Staten Island Ferry, and engineers inspect its docks once every two years, accord-

ing to an agency spokesman. Red Sky Capital did not return calls and e-mails requesting comment.

Watering hole

Greenpointers fear planned barge bar

By Danielle Furfaro The Brooklyn Paper

A planned floating East River bar off the Greenpoint shore will inundate the surrounding area with sloppy drunks who will trash Transmitter Park, peace-and-quietloving neighbors predict.

"They are going to drink at the barge and then come out and puke and piss in the park," Rolf Carle said.

The entrepreneurs behind the Brooklyn Barge Bar pitched it to Community Board 1's liquor committee in late February, and members demanded they come back on March 31 with more information and proof of permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The partners have rented a strip of waterfront land near Transmitter Park from controversial real estate mogul Joshua Guttman and plan to build a gangway to a barge floating beside it, one said. The bar is set to sit on the vessel, and a restaurant serving grilled dishes is planned for the land. The establishment will lure people to the river who wouldn't go otherwise,

"You would be surprised at



Business partners from left, Matt Perricone, Will Drawbridge, and Thomas Morgan stand in front of the planned home of Brooklyn Barge Bar, near Transmitter Park.

how many people have never gone down to the water," Will Drawbridge said. "This will give them something to come own for."

The owners plan for the business to be family-friendly during the day and adult-oriented at night, he said. Drawbridge's view of Transmitter Park differs dramatically from local activists' framing of it as a place under siege. He and his partners plan to build bathrooms and kayak storage there because the space needs more people using it, he said.

'Those things do not build revenue, but the Greenpoint waterfront is under-utilized, so we might as well use it, Drawbridge said.
Drawbridge gained his out-

door grill chops as a long-time employee of the Flying Pan, a similar venture on a barge docked on the Hudson River in Manhattan

Sunset Park at crossroads

By Max Jaeger The Brooklyn Paper

A plan to invest nearly \$1 billion of private money in Sunset Park's Industry City could bring hundreds of new parking spots to an area where car space is at a premium, but the proposal relies on the city playing ball.

The leadership of the industrial park unveiled a massive redevelopment plan on March 9 that envisions adding a 400-room hotel, nearly 16 football fields worth of retail space, and more than four times that much space dedicated to technology startups and hightech manufacturing. But the plan hinges on the city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal hosting a new parking lot serving people who work and shop at Industry City, and possibly the public as well.

The area's councilman blocked a city plan to redevelop the terminal in December, but Industry City's president, who is promising the redevelopment will create 20,000 jobs, said he needs local pols and officials to come together on parking and other infrastructure improvements to make the proposed 12-year investment proam feasible.

'What we've been clear

about is one thing — in order to succeed here, we're going to need additional parking. Andrew Kimball said.

The 16-building campus currently has just 450 spots. For comparison, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which is fourfifths of Industry City's size, has more than 3,500 parking spots, said Kimball, who headed the Navy Yard's redevelopment from 2005 to

Kimball wants the city to build a five-acre parking lotroughly the size of four football fields — in a corner of the 88-acre South Brooklyn Marine Terminal

The Brooklyn Paper

ishets echo in the stairwell



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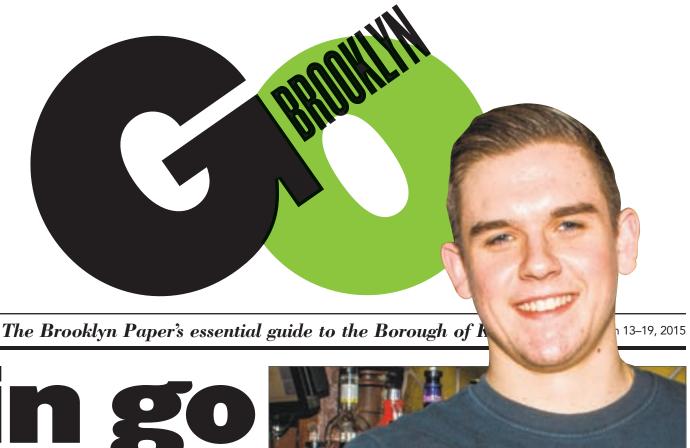
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County Kings serves pints of St. Paddy's Day excitement

By The Brooklyn Paper **Boozer Bureau**

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t's the time of the year for green beer -Saint Patrick's Day is on Tuesday — and you may be overwhelmed by the number of bars offering it alongside Guinness, corned beef, and cabbage. To ease your sense of vertigo, we have drafted a handy list of standout pubs and what they have planned for the occasion.

For the music lover

Irish Haven: Sunset Park's Irish Haven is hosting live music on Sunday and opens at 8 am on Saint Patrick's Day, but head back on March 22 for a performance by musician Sean Sands, brother of the legendary Irish republican Bobby Sands, 8 pm to 11 pm. [4721 Fourth Ave. at 58th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 439-9893]

For the aesthete

Wicked Monk: There may be no better-looking Irish pub in Brooklyn than the Wicked Monk, but that is not the only reason to celebrate at this Bay Ridge bar. The Monk will be getting in the spirit with live music every night from March 13 until the big day, including a traditional Irish seisiun on Saturday 14, 4 pm to 7

[8415 Fifth Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0601, www. wickedmonk.com]

For the hungry

Mullanes Bar and Grill: When it comes to food, Saint Pat-

rick's Day means one thing: corned beef and cabbage. Okay, and bangers and mash. That's four things. Come get nostalgic to traditional Irish music on the stereo and soak up the beer with the Fantastic Four of Irish cuisine

[71 Lafayette Ave. at S. Elliot Place in Fort Greene, (718) 797–7606, www.mullanesbrooklyn.com]

For the laid-back

Kitty Kiernan's: Looking for a lowkey way to celebrate the holiday? Head to Kitty Kiernan's, which claims the distinguished title of "first Irish bar and lounge on Third Avenue." For the holiday weekend, the bar will have the same Guinness

pints and jukebox as ever. [9715 Third Ave. between Marine Avenue and 97th Street in Bay Ridge, www. kittykiernans.com, (718) 921-0217]

For the seriously Irish

Rocky Sullivan's: If you want to get a heavy dose of Irish pride, as opposed to Irish-American pride, head over to Rocky Sullivan's in Red Hook. The watering hole

holds regular talks on Irish culture and the Irish language, and is home to the studio of "Radio Free Eireann," a weekly show on WBAI. The Sullivan's celebrations include a parade honoring the Irish language. It leaves from the bar at 7 pm on March 15.

[34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8050, www.rockysullivan-

St. Paddy's on the wagon

wasted. But it doesn't have to be that way!

There are plenty of Brooklyn events

Parade 1.0: The first of Brooklyn's two parades will be in Park Slope the weekend before Saint Pat-

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with the annual re-dedication ceremony to the heroes and victims of 9-11. before the march steps off in a loop around Seventh Avenue and Prospect Park West between 15th Street and Garfield Place

A cure for what ales ye: Wicked Monk bartender Tylor Keegaghan hoists a glass of

Ireland's most drunk export, just in time for Saint Patrick's Day.

(Prospect Park West at 15th Street in Park Slope, www.brooklynstpatricksparade.com). March 15 at 1 pm. Free.

Beginners' luck: If you're looking for a healthier way to celebrate with your kids than buying them a Shamrock Shake, the Brooklyn Children's Museum is hosting classes on Irish traditions for little ones aged 2.5–5. The youngsters will also make a rainbow mobile to take home.

Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. between Saint Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org].

14-15 at 2:30 pm and March 17 at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Free with museum admissior

Where's me gold?: Williamsburg's Nitehawk Cinema will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day by screening the first "Leprechaun" movie, featuring that guy from "Willow" as the least terrifying horror movie bad guy of all time, and the immortal line "F--- you, Lucky Charms."

Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-3980, www. nitehawkcinema.coml. March 17 at 9:30 pm. \$15.

Green and red: This is a different kind of Irish dancing. Wasabassco Burlesque will perform its fifth Saint Patrick's Day for Sinners show at the Bell House, featuring only red-headed performers getting

See **SOBER** on page 10

He plays harp

Harmonica master Jia-yi He is blowing through Bay Ridge for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's Arts on the Corner Series on March 15.



"At the time we could not afford to buy a piano," said He, a Queens resident who grew up in

Beijing and moved to the U.S. in 1998 to have an easier time traveling to play shows. The virtuoso will play a dizzy array of harps,

including a wheel harmonica, which he busted out on season five of "America's Got Talent," and a melodica — a cross between harmonica and a keyboard. And there will be theatrics. 'In a song, there's four harmonicas I'll be holding in my hand in order to play," He said.

One of He's signature pieces is "Flight of the Bumblebee" — composer Nikolai Rimsky-Kor-

sakov's lightning-fast operatic interlude. The feat is particularly tough on harmonica, where players are physically limited in their ability to intone the instrument, He said.

"Piano players use many fingers, but with har-

monica you only have one mouth," He said. A string quartet will accompany He, but the harp virtuoso doesn't stick to classical. He plays the blues, polkas, and even a little Gershwin. He also teaches at the Turtle Bay Music

School in distant Manhattan and leads a free group class in Central Park every year for Make Music New York. The maestro instructed and jammed with former Mayor Mike Bloomberg during the festival in 2012.

"He learned for about 30 minutes and played pretty good, so we played together," He said.

Jia-yi He and Friends present "Harmonica Harmony" at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd [7420 Fourth Ave. between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-8520, www.artonthecorner.org]. — Max Jaeger

EVENT

Rent is rising

They're painting by numbers.

Artists who put on the hot-button show "The Gentrification of Brooklyn: The Pink Elephant Speaks" in 2010 are revisiting the ever-pertinent issue of rising rents with a talk about their own Kings County real estate experiences at the Brook-

lyn Historical Society. The original exhibition garnered a lot of attention and prompted fierce online debate — and the organizer said the paintings coming down was just the beginning.

"We had this conversation five years ago, and now I want to explore how

their lives have changed in the past five years, said curator Dexter Wimberly, who organized both events. "I want to hear what their challenges are related to housing and studio space and all the other things that go along with living in a place that is gentrifying so quickly.'

The panel, set for March 17, will include Oasa Sun DuVerney, Nathan Kensinger, and Sarah Nelson Wright, all of whom had work in the original show as well as Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art director James Bartlett.

The economic situation for working artists has only gotten more dire since the group last saw each other, Wimberly said.

"Back then, people were still debating the implication of things like the Barclays Center or the mall on Flatbush Avenue," said Wimberly, who was born in Brooklyn in 1973.

The original exhibit ran at the African diaspora museum for four months and featured more than 20 artists. He plans to invite each of them to sit in the audience at the talk.

"At the very least, it will make for a very lively O&A session," he said.

"The Gentrification of Brooklyn Five Years Later" at the Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynhistory. org]. March 17 at 6:30 pm. Free

Danielle Furfaro

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Hair of the actual dog: Mike Butler with his beloved dog Seamus the Labradoodle at last year's Bay Ridge parade.

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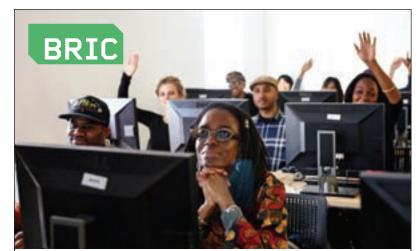
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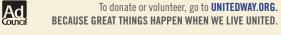
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WHERE TO G

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

March. 13



Space jam

It's a space party, Jim, but not as we know it. Brooklyn experimental theater company Title:Point is throwing a bash that really lives up to its name of 100% Outer Space Party. There will be a talk by an astrophysicist, a reading of spacethemed erotica, a Neil DeGrasse Tyson musical, live sci-fi music, a space-photo booth, space T-shirt printing, space drinks, and more space things.

Bushwick Ave. between Melrose and Jefferson

SATURDAY

8 pm at Silent Barn (603 streets in Bushwick, www. silentbarn.org), \$10.

March 14

Blades of glory Forget the Great White Way — head

to the great white ice-skating rink at the Prospect Park, which is hosting a Winter Broadway afternoon. Skate along to Broadway hits and win tickets to shows.

1-4 pm LeFrak Center at Lakeside [171 East Dr. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 462-0010, www. lakesidebrooklyn.com]. \$6 (plus skate rental)



SUNDAY March 15

Big beer

Microbrews are so passe. The Diamond bar is hosting a macro-brew blindtasting contest, where you can win a \$20 bar tab by identifying four mass-produced beers — such as Budweiser and Miller — on taste alone. The competition also coincides with a chili cook-off. Five bucks lets you sample the entrants and vote for a winner.

3-5 pm at the Diamond Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5030, www.thediamondbrooklyn.com]. \$5.

TUESDAY

March 17

The mope show Break out your best

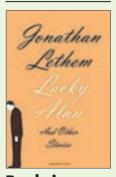
flannel and your broodiest facial expressions — Sebadoh, the original angsty '90s lo-fi band, is in town. Lou Barlow and co. released their first album in 14 years back in 2013. Just listen politely through those songs while waiting for the classics.

9 pm at the Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400, www.musichallofwilliamsburg. com]. \$20.



THURSDAY

March 19



Back in hardback

The former Bard of Boerum Hill Jonathan Lethem returns to his hometown for the New York launch of his latest short story collection "Lucky Alan and Other Stories."

7 pm at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www. powerhousearena.com].

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MARCH 13

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, GIRLS NAMES, FLAAMIN-GOS: \$12 (\$10 in advance). 8 pm. Saint Vitus (1120 Manhattan Avenue between Clay and Box streets in Greenpoint), www.saintvitusbar.

MUSIC, ALEX KELLY: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live

THEATER, "OLD PAPER HOUSES":
Piehole Theater Collective presents an original performance piece following a group of idealists searching for meaning and purpose in a freezing New England winter. \$18. 7:30 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488–9233], www.irondale.org.

THEATER, "BROTHERS FROM THE BOTTOM": The Billie Holiday Theatre kicks off its two-year residency at the Brooklyn Music School Play-house with this play about gentrifica-tion in New Orleans, starring Wen-dell Pierce. \$20-\$30.8 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse [126 Saint Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene (718) 638–5660], brooklynmusic-

OTHER

ART, "THE BIRTHDAY PARTY": Artist Sandra Rocha debuts her solo exhibition "The Birthday Party," a collecaintinas depictina womer at birthday parties, while commenting on age and femininity. Free. 11 am–7 pm. RePOP [143 Roebling St. between Metropolitan Avenue and Hope Street in Williamsburg, (718) 260–8032], www.repopny.com. ART, "POEMS FOR THE BREAKING

OF SPELLS": An exhibition of artist, activist, and educator Ché Baraka's work exploring cultural and social tropes found in African American culture. Free. 11 am–6 pm. The Skylight Gallery [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-6900], www.restorationplaza.org.



Hang in there: Look, Deron Williams is excited, so the Nets

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, MARCH 13

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 **BASKETBALL CHAMPION-**SHIP: Quarterfinals, session four. \$26-\$62. Noon.

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BAS-KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarterfinals, session five. \$26-\$62. 6:30 pm.

SAT, MARCH 14

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BAS-KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Semifinals, session six. \$36–\$72.

SUN, MARCH 15

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BAS-KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Finals, session seven. \$36–\$77.50. 1 pm.

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS

VS.MILWAUKEE BUCKS: \$30-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

MON, MARCH 23

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. BOSTON CELTICS: \$22–\$3,000.

(917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

Find lots more listings online at

BrooklynPaper.com/Events

SAT, MARCH 14

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, EXCITER, THE RODS, BROCAS HELM, OCTOBER 31, CAUCHEMAR, HIGH SPIRITS, NATUR: \$40. 4 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gow anus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

MUSIC, NASIMIYU: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/pro-

grams/bamcafe-live THEATER, THE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS: Chinese troupe performs acrobatics and traditional dances in costume. \$25. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Perform ing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncente

SUN, MARCH 15

line.org.

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, DON QUIXOTE: Performed by the Moscow City Ballet. \$36-\$45. 3 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www. brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, OVERTURES: The Gallery Players performs staged readings of new musicals. \$10. 7 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], www.galleryplayers.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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I want you back!

She's reviving old theaters — with song

ou don't need to hear it through the grapevine — you can hear it in Brooklyn!

Diana Ross famously re-opened the restored Loew's Kings Theatre in Flatbush last month, but the revival of both soul music and classic Brooklyn concert halls isn't over. A Crown Heights jazz singer will recall top Motown performances from the heyday of two other once-prominent Kings County theaters, the Fox and the Paramount, with a show at the Bedford Library in Bedford-Stuyvesant on March 14. The show, "Motown and Beyond," will celebrate the soulful sounds of yesteryear, evoking a performance style and history that has nearly vanished, the singer said.

'Long before YouTube and shows on the super-sized stages with all the lights, special effects, background dancers, and Auto-Tune-ing, there were performers who took to the stage simply with fantastic artistry," said Cilla Owens, the library's Katowitz Radin artist-in-residence.

As part of her residency, Ownes has access to the library's sheet music collection — boasting 102 pieces of music from 1869-1987 — and its collection of around 800 programs and



Sunshine on a cloudy day: Crown Heights singer Owens (above) saw her first Motown revue at Downtown's long-gone Fox Theatre. (Right) The Paramount Theatre, which still stands on Flatbush Avenue, but now serves as a gym.

playbills from Brooklyn theaters dating back to the 1880s, which she said have given her a new perspective on the borough's cultural heritage. This. along with a survey she performed of people's experiences with Brooklyn's performance spaces, inspired the upcoming concert, she said.

"Brooklyn has a rich cultural history," said Owens, who saw her first rock and roll show at Fox Theatre at age 12 "The beautiful old theaters of Brook-



lyn are a part of that vibrant cultural ast and should not be ignored."

Owens certainly hasn't forgotten. The Fox is also where she saw her first Motown revue.

"It was phenomenal, you saw the entire roster of Motown artists — the Miracles, the Supremes, Little Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, the Marvelettes, everyone," she said. "There were song battles between the Four Tops and the Temptations, and the master of ceremo-

nies was the energetic and well known disc jockey Murray the K.'

The Fox Theatre, which was located on Flatbush Avenue at Nevins Street Downtown, was built in 1928 and demolished in 1971. The Paramount Theatre, a few blocks away at Flatbush and Dekalb avenues, was also built in 1928 and is currently serving as a gymnasium for Long Island University, but is slated to begin hosting music performances again in the near future.

Both theaters were defined by eyecatching, elaborate architecture in their golden years, an expert on historic theaters in the borough said.

'The LIU gym has been called the most ornate college gym in America because of the remains of the Paramount," said Cezar DelValle, who leads walking tours of Downtown's former theater district.

The Fox was especially unique, Del alle said.

'There was a working fountain in the inner lobby complete with a statue of a dolphin," he said.

These kinds of grand theaters flourished in Brooklyn in the earlyto mid-20th century, but sadly, most have been lost to the ages, DelValle

But the great theaters will live again for at least one more night via Owens' concert. The singer said she wants the audience to feel the energy and joy of the music.

"I want them to clap their hands, stomp their feet, and sing along, as if they were at their favorite house party or family reunion," she said.

"Motown and Beyond" at the Bedford Library [496 Franklin Ave. at Hancock Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 623-0012, www.bklynlibrary.org]. March 14 at 2 pm. Free.









Pounds of music Japanese drumming at BAM

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

hev prance to the beat of their own drums. The internationally famous Japanese taiko drumming group Kodo is set to play at the Brooklyn Academy of Music this week. The group performs a modern take on an ancient style of performance that combines drumming and dance, according to a fellow

"To get this combination of athleticism and musicality, you have to achieve a certain level

of balance between the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual," said former Kodo member Kaoru Watanade, a Crown Heights resident. "It is an intense performance."

Taiko's members bang out intricate rhythms on drums that weigh as much as 900 pounds. The art form has incorporated more dance, costumes, and storytelling during the past few decades, but it remains rooted in the traditions of Japanese harvest festivals, Watanade said.

"It is like Mardi Gras with festivals around harvests and

thanking gods for the harvest or other wonderful things," he said. "It is about maintaining tradition and maintaining relationships and communication between people and their

The drums are so large that the musicians must use their whole bodies to play them.

"We have to use heavy sticks and our entire bodies, legs and backs," Watanade said. "It is very physical art work."

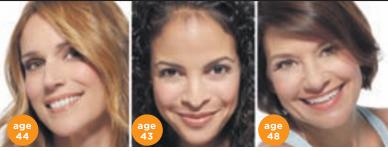
Taiko drummers typically apprentice for two years, during which they learn to drum and live cooperatively, he said,



Drumming up interest: Taiko, an ancient style of Japanese drumming, is coming to Fort Greene.

cooking, harvesting food, and making tools together, including their own drumsticks.

Kodo One Earth Tour: Mystery at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Howard Gilman Opera House [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org]. Mar 19—21 at 7:30pm. \$25-



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By Bill Roundy

Smoke beef every day

Cooks duke it out to be crowned city's Brisket King

By Matthew Perlman The Brooklyn Paper

moke 'em if you got 'em.
Pit masters will battle it out for brisket supremacy at the Irondale Center on March 16 in the Brisket King of NYC competition. The event's organizer said the slow-cooked delicacy brings together Brooklynites of all backgrounds.

'It's really a great slice of New York," said Jimmy Carbone, who owns a restaurant on the distant island of Manhattan. "We have kosher people, people who like barbecue, people who are into smoking [meat]. Everyone likes beef and everyone likes brisket.'

Twenty chefs from around the city will carve up their best beef-breast dishes for a panel of judges and around 500 guests. Prizes will be awarded for best traditional, braised, and innovative briskets, as well as an overall winner and a people's choice. Briskets come in many varieties,

including the Irish corned beef, the braised brisket popular in Jewish culture, and the smoked version from the South, Carbone said. But, he added, all brisket has a few things in common.

"It has to be fatty. And it really takes love," he said. "All brisket takes a lot of time in the kitchen."

Carbone said his favorites are usually the ones that take the least amount of work.

"I personally like briskets that are un-fussed-over," he said. "The less handled the better."



Heated competition: Matt Fisher, left, and Bill Fletcher of Fletcher's Brooklyn Barbecue will compete for the title of Brisklet King in Fort Greene on Monday.

Brooklyn will be well represented at the cook-off, with meatheads from Morgan's Barbecue in Prospect Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant's Beast of Bourbon, and Fletcher's Brooklyn Barbecue in Gowanus all set to participate. Bill Fletcher, who will be entering the Brisket King competition for the third time, said it is one of the better food face-offs he has seen.

"A lot of times these food competitions it's more about the social aspect. People are just there to party,"

he said. "But Brisket King isn't like that. The attendees are truly passionate about the food. They want to understand what you have and how you made it?

Fletcher said a good brisket for him always starts with a nice fresh cut of meat.

"To get something good out, you have to put something good in," he said. Fletcher's entry in the contest will

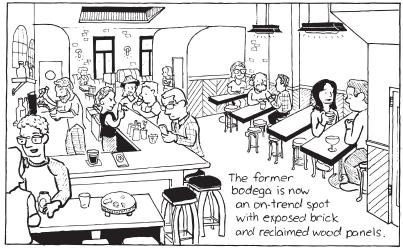
be a barbecued brisket bulgogi, a Korean marinade that translates to "fire meat," served with fermented kohlrabi, a turnip popular in Germany, in lettuce leaves. It's a mouthful, but the method is tried-and-true: barbecue.

"It's all about cooking real slow and over low heat," he said.

Brisket King of NYC at the Iron-

dale Center (85 South Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, www. eventbrite.com/e/brisket-king-ofnyc-2015-tickets-14582158629). March 16 at 6 pm. \$85. Packages









Livingston Manor [42 Hoyt St., between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets in Downtown, (347) 987–3292, www.livingstonmanorbk.com]. Open Sunday to Thursday, 3 pm to 2:30 am; Friday and Saturday, 3 pm to 4 am.

Continued from page 7

their kit off to music. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues, (718) 643–6510, www.thebell-houseny.com]. March 17 at 8 pm. \$20–\$50, free for red-heads.

Step up: Kick up your heels and watch other people kick up theirs when dancers from the Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance give a family-friendly perfor-



Schlocky charms: "Leprauchan" will screen.

mance at the Central Library. The troupe will perform traditional and contemporary moves to live music

Central Library [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, www.bklynpubliclibrary.org]. March 21 at 1 pm. Free.

Parade 2.0: The borough's second parade takes place in Bay Ridge the weekend after Saint Patrick's Day. This one is a straight line down Third Avenue from Marine Avenue to 67th Street.

(Third Avenue at Marine Avenue in Bay Ridge, www. bayridgestpatricksday. com). March 22 at 1 pm.

Continued from page 8 MON, MARCH 16

OTHER

COMEDY, BLACK LIGHT **COMEDY SHOW:**

Monthly comedy night showcasing female comedians. Free. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Moon Cafe [745 Fulton St. between S. Elliot Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 855-7149]

TUES, MARCH 17

OTHER

READING, JACOB SILVER-MAN: Freelance journalist Jacob Silverman launches his book "Terms of Service: Social Media and the Price of Constant Connection." Free. 7–9 pm. Power-House Arena [37 Main St at Water Street in Dumbo (718) 666–3049], www powerhousearena.com

WED, MARCH 18

PERFORMANCE THEATER, "A MIDSUM-MER NIGHT'S DREAM": featuring guest poets

ater company combines Shakespeare's classic comedy with either a rus-tic meal or a five-course feast served throughout the performance. \$75 or \$125. 6:30. Casa Duse [16 Prospect Park West between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (646) 266–2762], www.newplaceplayersnyc.com

THURS, MARCH 19

PERFORMANCE

READING, KEN SIEGLE-MAN'S POETRY OUT-REACH: Anthony Vigorito hosts a night of poetry

adults. Free. 6:30 pm. Barnes and Noble [267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832–9066], www.barnesandnoble.com.

each week. For teens and

FRI, MARCH 20

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAM-BER MUSIC SOCIETY: Performing Purcell's "Fan-tazias in Four Parts," Mozart's "Quintet for strings in C major, KV 515," and Mendelssohn's "Quintet for strings in B-flat major Op. 87." Free. 8 pm. First Unitarian Congregational Society (116 Pierrepont

St. at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights), www. brooklynchambermusicso-

SAT, MARCH 21

OTHER

READING, CRAIG MCGUIRE: Launching his new book "Beyond the Ides: Why March is the Unluckiest Month of All." Free. 4 pm. The BookMark Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115],

MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS

from New York Methodist Hospital

Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates are Rising, but Have Further to Go

By Smruti Mohanty, M.D., Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, **New York Methodist Hospital**

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in the United States, and also one of the deadliest. Trailing only lung cancer, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in America, and is typically diagnosed later in life than almost any other type of cancer—at the age of 72, on

As with many other types of cancer, the key to surviving colon cancer is diagnosing it when it is still confined to the tissue in which it originated. The chances of curing or preventing colon cancer when it is identified in its earliest stages are well over 90 percent. But while an increase in public awareness about the importance of colonoscopies—the "gold standard" test used to screen patients for colorectal cancer—has pushed the survival rate for colorectal cancer higher over the years, there is much further to go. Only half of Americans over 50 years of age keep current on the recommended screenings that will maximize the chance for an early diagnosis. This is one of the reasons why, in more than 60 percent of colorectal cancer cases, a diagnosis does not come until after it has already begun to spread, when the chances of survival decrease significantly.

Individuals can make certain changes to their lifestyle—exercising more, losing weight, guitting smoking, and eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains—to reduce their risk of developing colorectal cancer, but colonoscopy screening is the most important component of prevention. Symptoms of colon cancer-which can include rectal bleeding, bloody stool, changes in bowel habits, cramping, and unexplained rapid weight loss—rarely manifest themselves when the disease is at an early stage. That is what makes screening so important.

However, gastroenterologists who perform colonoscopies understand that many patients are apprehensive about colonoscopy procedures, or think that, because the first screening is all clear, the next one can be put off. That is why we work to make the experience as worry-free, comfortable and convenient as possible for our patients.



Smruti Mohanty, M.D., Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, New York Methodist Hospital

During a colonoscopy, most patients receive medication to achieve conscious sedation, a state of drowsiness in which any pain is controlled. A colonoscopy typically only lasts 30 minutes to one hour, with patients able to return home the same day. If any potentially precancerous abnormal growths (polyps) are detected, they can be removed during the colonoscopy, and samples of suspicious lesions or tissue surrounding the polyp can be sent for further testing. If no problems are detected, it may be up to ten years before the next colonoscopy screening will be required.

Colonoscopy screening has been estimated to have the potential to prevent almost two thirds of colorectal cancer cases, but that is only possible if patients are proactive and get screened on schedule. This allows a gastroenterologist to identify colon cancer at its earliest stages, or potentially, to stop it before it starts.

Dr. Mohanty encourages patients to speak with a gastroenterologist who can assess their individual risk for developing colorectal cancer and can recommend a screening schedule. The Institute of Digestive and Liver Disorders at New York Methodist Hospital can be reached by visiting www.nym.org and clicking on "Find a Doctor," or by calling the Institute at 866.DIGEST1 (866.344.3781).

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT Paint the town at Paint Nite at Schnitzel Haus

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

If you've ever sat around a bar, bragging about your Picasso skills, it may be time to put up or shut up

Schnitzel Haus, Brooklyn's only Authentic German Restaurant, brings us Paint Nite, an interactive event that allows you to drink, eat, and paint — all under the supervision of an art instruc-

It doesn't matter if the last time you held a paint brush was to paint by number. No experience is necessary, and everything you need is provided to you paint, brushes, canvas, and even a smock so your clothes stay clean. The event lasts about two hours. You'll sip some cocktails, have a few laughs, and then walk home with your own masterpiece to display in your home. You might just discover a hidden talent vou didn't know existed.

Bring all your friends for a great Girls Night Out. Or, come solo and make new friends. You won't feel out of place because this is an ice breaker, for sure.

Paint Nite is also the perfect venue for dating, offering a setting that will give you plenty to talk about. That finished painting might just provide some insight into your date as well.

It's an event that's fun for people of all ages. Rose Pepe, a grandmother, was invited to Paint Nite by her granddaughter, Berna-

"We had such a good time," she says. "My painting is hanging on the wall of my kitchen," a remembrance of a special day. Schnitzel Haus co-owner Am-

ber Urban says she has enjoyed seeing the variety of paintings since the restaurant started hosting these Paint Nite events. "Every painting looks a bit

like the artist who creates it; and everyone has such a good time," she says. A patron recently brought his wife to Paint Nite to commemorate a wedding anniversary. Teachers, too, come in to unwind with some wine, and paint



Urban's husband and co-owner

ed adds that it's all stre "You bring your fun-loving friends. Have a few cocktails to keep the spirits high, and the in-

hibitions to a minimum.' You don't have to have any artist talent; yet, most people go home with a 16-by-20-inch canvas painting of which they are very

Schnitzel Haus hosts Paint Nite events on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 7 to 9 pm. After the paint party, patrons are invited to keep the good times rolling at the bar where they'll discover at least 40 different types of beer. You can also try the 1 or 2ltr "DAS Boot".

Or, bring on the bratwurst, Schnitzel Haus's sausage that's rich with tasty spices. Don't forget the authentic German potato salad, served warm with vinegar, bacon, pepper, and special sea-

The food here is the real deal, all compiled from Urban family

Besides Paint Nite, Schnitzel Haus offers an all-you-can-eat Bavarian buffet on Wednesdays, featuring traditional fare such as kassler rippchen — smoked pork chops, served over sauerkraut. Travs of food are set on a back table, and customers can help themselves, returning as often as they

There's karaoke every Thursday. On the first Sunday of the month, enjoy traditional German

Purchase tickets for Paint Nite at PaintNite.com. Use coupon code Schnitzel45 to receive the friends and family discount rate. Some upcoming Paint Nite events







will be held on March 13, 17, and 27 at 7 pm, and on March 15 and 29 at 2 pm. Check the website's calendar for many more dates. You can also view the painting you'll be

Schnitzel Haus [7319 Fifth Ave. between 73rd and 74th street in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-5600, www.SchnitzelHausny.com]. The kitchen is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 4-10 pm; Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, noon–11 pm; and on Sundays, noon-10 pm. The bar remains open until 2 am on Fridays and Saturdays.

Pack animal

Crummy tells all, namely, role as pol's carrier pigeon

ou know what they say: "Get ahead of the news before you become the news." Or something like that. Well, this is my attempt to clear my good name in advance of the media circus that is sure to follow. This is my story.

Over the weekend, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina announced on "Meet the Press" that he has never

sent an e-mail. He stopped short of admitting he has never sent a textmessage, though I know for a fact he hasn't. I know because I've been moonlighting as

Sen. Graham's carrier pigeon since 2007. I've never asked who the bird was before me. I don't want to know his name. I don't want to know what happened to him.

Before you get all, "Crummy, why are you dipping your beak into the political waters? Stick to the Nets," let me explain myself.

First, let me say, I'm not proud of it. I got into this racket because the Nets were going nowhere fast, constantly circling the drain. They were a disaster in New Jersey. They've had some halfway decent times in Brooklyn thus far, but nothing to bring them a following that would get me enough clicks to pull me away from working for Graham. The money is too good.

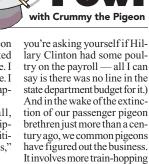
A bird with my experience can net close to \$500 a night, plus the scraps from whatever Graham's caterers whipped up for the night.

And what an ingenious move on his part to join the subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law. It's the perfect ruse. No one expects a senator on a technology subcommittee to rem-

inisce about the town crier, which Graham does, regularly. He'd ride everywhere on horseback if it weren't for everybody having a dang telegraph-enabled Polaroid in their pocket, as he likes to say.

It's not just Graham either, there are other politicians who employ pigeons' services. I won't name names. Despite the common slur — rat with wings — I'm no rat. (I know

<u>Flagrant</u>



but we get the job done. I've seen some things, man. If you think my bird's-eye view from the rafters at the Rust Bowl yields some juicy insight into the Brooklyn franchise, you wouldn't believe what I know about the game of world diplomacy.

and grappling hooks than it did

in the pure old days some are

so fond of reminiscing about.

Just a couple weeks ago I saw an albatross take off with a message for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu marked "for anyone but Obama's eyes only." Personally, I've been on the payroll since 2007, but I haven't been asked to take any transatlantic trips. I'm a strictly domestic bird. Lindsey uses the bigger haulers for that. Sometimes they don't return. It's a





high stakes game we're playing, but like I said, the money is good.

Now that I've got that off my chest, and might soon be out of my most lucrative post, that for analysis?

Hm, that sounds familiar,

(Above) Consider this shot from the Nets' March 6 loss against the Phoenix Suns your friendly reminder that Brooklyn's home team still stinks. (Left) You know how George Washington said "I cannot tell a lie?" Well, Sen. Lindsey Graham cannot send an e-mail.

Our Nets gave away the game against Phoenix. Indiana and Boston have passed them in the standings. Just when you thought that game against Golden State was the turning point, they reminded you exactly who they are: a bunch of old guys, past their prime, unwilling to recognize the changing times

doesn't it?

Fourth Ave. overhaul

City putting big bucks towards redesign

The city wants to overhaul Fourth Avenue as part of its latest push to make dangerous streets safer.

The street that stretches from Bay Ridge to Atlantic Terminal is one on a list of hairy thoroughfares up for \$250 million worth of rejiggering, announced as part of the mayor's preliminary budget last week. Details, including how much of Fourth Avenue would be affected, have not yet been announced, but the Department of Transportation has floated tree-lined medians, physically separated bike lanes, and sidewalk expansions as some possible measures. A road-safety activist who has worked with Park Slope's 78th Precinct on reckless driving enforcement measures said that reshaping roads is another key component of the city's Vision Zero push, which is meant to end traffic deaths by 2024.

"I don't think we can underestimate the importance of infrastructure upgrades," Eric McClure said. "Police can't be everywhere. Education plays an important role, but engineering becomes really important in creating safe spaces. Work will not begin on ma-

jor Brooklyn streets - the East New York leg of Atlantic Avenue is also up for a redesign — for another two years, transportation department Commissioner Polly



Cars zoom down Fourth Avenue, the crash-prone thoroughfare that the city has singled out for a redesign in its preliminary budget.

Trottenberg told the Council on March 5.

Between 2009 and 2013, ix pedestrians were killed on Fourth Avenue and 55 were seriously injured, while Atlantic Avenue saw four pedestrian fatalities and 60 serious injuries during the same stretch, according to city data. McClure, who lives in Park

Slope and is an avid cyclist, said that Fourth Avenue provides a straight shot toward Downtown and Manhattan, but he usually avoids it on bike because speeding drivers and a lack of separated cycling lanes make it a dicey oposition.

Sometimes if I'm in a hurry I'll take Fourth Ave., but it generally is not my first choice," he said. "Bike lanes would certainly be a bene-

Proposed pedestrianfriendly modifications of sections of Fourth in Park Slope and Bay Ridge have sparked heated debate in recent years, and both community boards have rejected early city plans, demanding tweaks from the city, which in some cases they got. The community board and police precinct in Sunset Park, on the other hand, invited such a redesign, and the city says crashes have decreased and drive times have remained the same since it narrowed the road from six lanes to four through the neighborhood in late 2012.

The city has long planned to widen the median from Atlantic Avenue to 65th Street, and overhaul the crash-prone intersection of Fourth Avenue and 86th Street in Bay Ridge. The city has not yet made clear what its latest money allocation will add to those plans.

Pol to mayor: Let kids lift off on Lunar New Year

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

The city should hurry up and give schoolkids Lunar New Year off now that it has declared two Muslim holidays

stay-home days, according to a Dumbo pol.

I better really hunker down

on the local basketball team.

So, fear not, loval readers, I

got vour Nets update right

here: The team stinks! How's

State Sen. Daniel Squadron, pushed through state legislation last year aimed at making the holiday widely celebrated in Asian cultures an official school holiday. Mayor DeBlasio and the education department's announcement last week that Islamic holy days Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are

irked Squadron, who pointed out that DeBlasio promised to move on Lunar New Year.

"The evolution of the school calendar is a testament to the

being made official days off diversity of the city," Squad- Asian societies. Nearly 90 perron said. "The mayor made a pledge and it should be kept.'

Lunar New Year is the biggest day of the year for many

cent of students in some areas of the city, including Sunset Park, are absent from school when Lunar New Year falls on

My son got into Stuyvesant!

am thrilled that my son, Eli, got into Stuyvesant High School.

And I'm scared s--Visiting the tall tower together this fall, listening to the exciting stories of the cheerleader and football player who led us on a tour, it seemed like

a no-brainer that Eli, who tests well, would place the school first. He had a shot, and why not dream big? After all, dreams are catalysts to pull us forward into a

place that feels good and natural if we let them. And yet I know from experience how scary it is to set one's goals high, to place expectations on oneself that will inevitably require a slew of hard work and place one in a competitive realm that could be incredibly stressful. And for what?

Where is it that my son is trying to go, and is it worth it?

was in town, I lost it at the

I have had to ask myself the same question, repeatedly, as I fall to pieces over trying to do difficult things, like starting a nonprofit to help kids connect through the arts. The last time my mother

kitchen table.

"I am completely overwhelmed," I said, between sobs, "and I have no idea what to do about it.'

She shook her head and looked at me, eyes filled with sympathy and exasperation both—this had been the same old refrain for a while.

"I just don't understand why you have to dream so big," she said,

I thought when she said it she was crazy, but then I thought, maybe she's right. Maybe it is better to lower one's expectations to reasonable easily-achievable goals. After all, how much is too much to expect?

Unfortunately, now it is too late.

my children have It seer already been affected by what I call my "Big Dream Syndrome," for better or for worse. Eli, at 7 or 8, boldly exclaimed that he wanted to go to Harvard. I remember wondering where in the world he might have gotten the notion, since I don't recall ever pushing it or even mentioning it. But he had somehow heard it was the



best school, and decided that's where he wanted to go. I remember, even at the time, wondering if, in fact, Harvard is all it is cracked up to be. If, in fact, it would be the best place for his active little brain. If, in fact, he could even get in.

But words people utter, even at a young age, mean something, and so I took it

Now, as he prepares to accept the opportunity to go to Stuyvesant, and the stories of crazy homework and supercompetitive kids abound, I wonder to myself, (with my mother's voice in my head). "Why does he have to dream so big? Maybe he should go somewhere a little less tough, a place with a few fewer expectations?"

And then I remember we

Parenting By Stephanie Thompson are who we are. I believe there is a path for us, and even if it is a difficult one, we are go-

ing to have to follow it to see where it goes. We're going to have to suffer the trials and tribulations of that particular road because that is the one we've been put on. Certainly he is blessed to have the opportunity he'd hoped for, and so he must move forward, fear

be damned. Having a dream, a vision of what one might actually be able to achieve, is impor- crossed.

tant. The size of that dream, I guess, is commensurate with the star you were born under and what surrounds you in support of those dreams, but I believe that people can go incredibly far if only someone looks into their eyes, and tells them that they can.

So I say to my mother, to myself, and to my kids - my birthed ones and the ones I work with in schools — it is okay to dream big. You just have to take it step by step and relax and enjoy it along the way.

And you have to be flexible. as dreams are metaphors not literal to-dos, and if it so happens that one dream doesn't come true, trv, trv again. Dare to come up with yet another

big dream. I've got my fingers

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Stanton, and Etta Jones are just a few of the big names who have graced the stage.

"Contrary to popular belief, seniors do venture out after dark," said Harold Valle, who hosts the jazz nights. "We need a place to go.' The Administration for

Children's Services, which helps fund the daycare center, is the city agency responsible for holding up the renewal, according to Claudette Macey, director of the Fort Greene Council. The senior center could get a separate lease paid for with money from the city's Department for

the Aging, she said.
"ACS is sitting on the fence," Macey said. "They're playing a game."

The lease expires in September, but the landlord has been receiving unsolicited offers for the building, and is threatening to put it on the market this week to see what interest it generates, Macey said, meaning time is running out.

"The city is stalling so it will get late, and then it will be too late turn back," she said.

A spokesman for the children's agency said it wants to keep the programs where they are.
"The Administration for

Children's Services is actively

Clinton Hill resident Ebony Jenkins's 4-year-old daughter is in the daycare program, and she said they both love it—and that it is important to have it close to home. "You don't want to travel

"It's a vital part of our com-Jenkins's fiance and his sib-

there growing up, she added. "We have so much history with that place," she said. "It's a real staple in our family.

kid and senior resources aren't the only ones threatened by rising rents. Up in Williamsburg, the Swinging Sixties Center and Small World Daycare and Learning Center have been embroiled in a legal battle since

far with your child," she said. lings all attended programs

The Fort Greene Council's

working with our partner city agencies to renew the lease at this site in an effort to continue providing quality early care and education services to children in Fort Greene,' Christopher McNiff said.

2013, when a father-and-son team bought their building, increased the rent, and moved to evict them. Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Williamsburg) is pushing a bill that would allow the city to take ownership of the building, where it has paid the rent since the 1970s.

- with Danielle Furfaro

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> INFORMATION Leticia James Warns

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YuQing (Last) He. My
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OBITUARY

In Memoriam

Josephine Gruttadauria Born on May 21, 1930 Passed away on March 1, 2015



Beloved daughter of the late Luigi and Margaret Gentile. Devoted Mother of Mary Martir and Anthony Gentile. Cherished Grandmother of Alex Martir, Michael Martir and Emilio C. DiFranco. Loving sister of Lucy Nardone and Pat "Sonny" Gentile (his "Pepina"). Fond aunt to Maria, Louis D., Margaret, Phyllis, Mary, John, Louis G., Joseph, Michael, Ronald, JoAnn and Toni. Survived by many other beloved family members and generations of

> students she taught at P.S. 58, to whom she was known as "Mrs. G." Services were held at Scotto Funeral Home on March 5th. A Christian Burial mass was held the next day at Sacred Hearts - St. Stephen RC Church, Brooklyn, and Josephine was laid to rest at St. Charles Cemetery.

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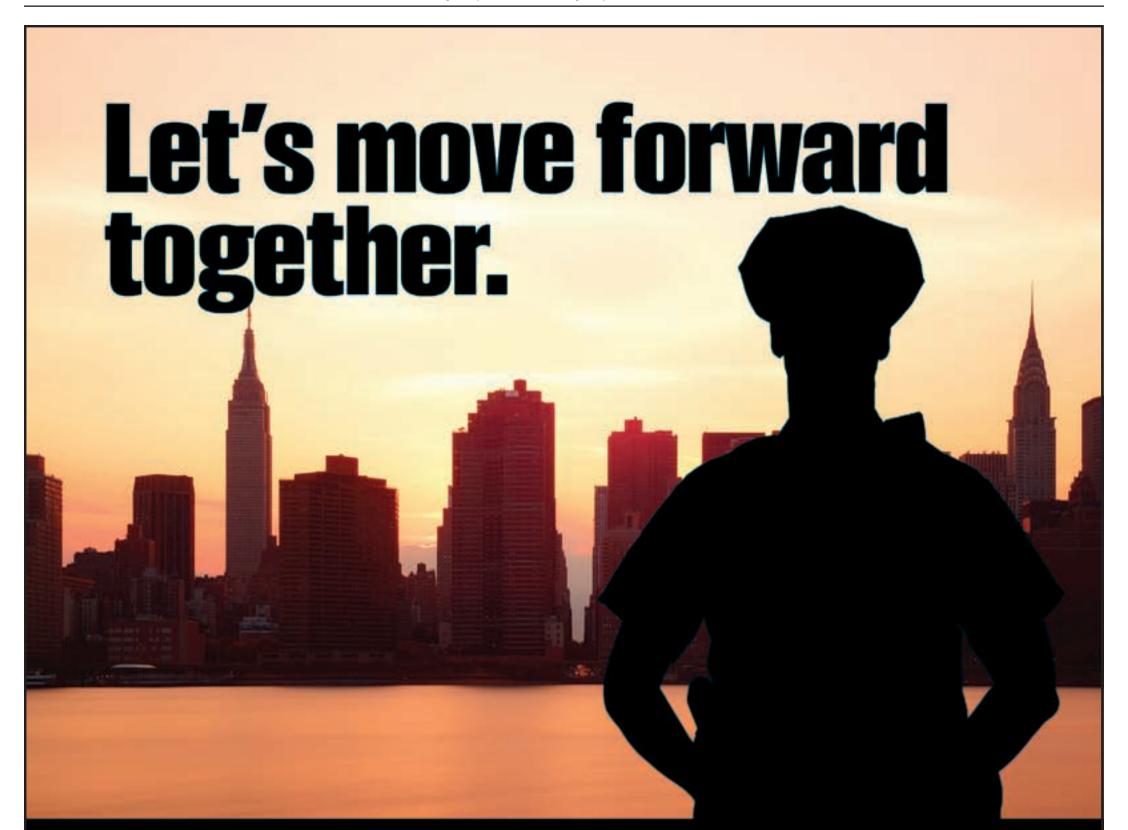
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